

Outline

What Would You Do... To Succeed?

What would you do if you knew you could get away with it and succeed or enhance your situation?

- ◇ If you knew that it would not hurt you, would you possibly try to cheat on your taxes?
- ◇ Keep the extra change that you were given at the counter?
- ◇ Correct the bill at the end of dinner if you were undercharged that expensive bottle of wine?
- ◇ Is it ok to fudge a little bit if it will not really hurt others or if I can get away with it and not be caught?

How generous would you be if it might cost you more than a little bit?

- ◇ Would you help someone out who needed a couple of gallons of gas if gas was just \$1.90 a gallon? What about last summer when gas was \$4.50 a gallon?
- ◇ Choose to give 10% of your income away with no profit coming to you? Even if you could not get a tax break because of your generosity?
- ◇ Use the last \$50.00 in your pocket or savings to provide for the need of someone who has been placed right in the middle of your life?
- ◇ How generous are you when it would seem that God puts people right in your way with a need that is right within your reach?

What would you do to get ahead at work?

- ◇ Would you betray someone at work by putting him/her in an unfavorable light with the boss when given the chance – just to improve your standing in the company?
- ◇ Take credit for what another has done when you know it is not yours to take?
- ◇ Would you lie to make sure you weren't to get the blame for something that was clearly your fault if you could get away with it?
- ◇ Would you pay less than market value in wages or services just to pocket more money for yourself?
- ◇ Fudge the expense account to pad your pocket?

What would you do to succeed?

These are some questions that it does well for us to consider as we try to survive in this treacherous economy within which we live. For if we do not think about them ahead of time, we will find ourselves drawn into lifestyles that hurt our character and the people around us.

God's What Should You Do... for Success?

Succeed by Character and by Charity

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" Jesus replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself." "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "**Do this and you will live.**"

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Luke 10:25-28 NIV

Succeed by refusing to look for the loopholes to Integrity

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Luke 10:29 NIV

- ◇ It is selfishness that causes us to cheat others, live stingy, or live by dishonest gain.
- ◇ It is selfishness that allows us to ignore another's need.
- ◇ It is selfishness that wants to qualify neighborliness.

Succeed by refusing to abuse the power within your control

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead." Luke 10:30 NIV

- ◇ The Power of Love – using a family member's loyalty of love against them
- ◇ The Power of Influence – using your talent and ability against those without it
- ◇ The Power of Power – using your position against those who are under you

Succeed by matching your Public Life to your Private Life

A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. Luke 10:31,32 NIV

- ◇ There should be no difference between the two.
- ◇ Integrity and Character are not buttons that can be turned off and on.
- ◇ Sunday should look very similar to Tuesday and Saturday.

Succeed by seeing all people as God sees them – neighborly

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' Luke 10:33-35 NIV

- ◇ Care for all in your sphere of influence and power.
- ◇ Use your spiritual gifts to care and minister to all within your space.
- ◇ Your resources are not yours, but yours to bless and aid others.
- ◇ Your time is not yours but yours to share with others.
- ◇ Your money is not yours but yours to give to others.
- ◇ Your character is not yours to shape, but shaped within you to bless others.

God's What Should You Do... for Success? Challenge for the Week!

May 24, 2009

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“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, **“Go and do likewise.”** Luke 10:36 NIV

Live this week by matching your public and private self with no mind to the consequences.

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